

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claim 7 as follows.

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Amended) A method of operating a call processing system to handle a call placed to a called telephone number from a caller having a caller telephone number, the method comprising:

- receiving call set-up signaling for the call;
- ~~prior to service discrimination,~~ processing the called telephone number from the call set-up signaling to determine if the called telephone number is a toll-free number;
- if the called telephone number is not the toll-free number, then checking the caller telephone number in a validation table to determine if the call should be allowed;
- if the call should be allowed based on the validation table, then processing the called telephone number to select a route for the call;
- if the called telephone number is the toll-free number, then processing the called telephone number to select the route for the call without checking the caller telephone number in the validation table;
- after selecting the route for the call, generating and transferring a message indicating the route selected for the call.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the set-up signaling comprises a Signaling System #7 Initial Address Message.

9. (Cancelled)